TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

Virginia Press Association Member

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Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Robinson ...... *Editors and Publishers*

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EDITORIAL OPINION

THE NEED FOR PINE

The crying need for more pine in Appomattox County is made unpleasantly clear in a map of pulpwood production recently released by the Virginia Forest Service.

The map shows that during 1953, counties all around Appomattox produced more than 25,000 cords of pulpwood, but that Appomattox was well under that total. Buckingham produced 65,846 cords; Amherst produced 67,251 cords; Prince Edward produced 46,357, and Campbell produced 50,348. Every county bordering on Appomattox far outmatched us in pulpwood production.

This situation is most timely, because the market for mine props is away off, and may never return. Appomattox needs .. and badly .. more income for its woodlands.

The record shows that in 1953 82 per cent of the pulpwood produced in Virginia was pine, only 18 per cent hardwoods.

Appomattox County, obviously, is short on marketable pine. To produce more pine is a top project for this area. We happen to know that some of our dealers in timber are greatly interested in plantings of pine. We commend them, and we would like to see a major effort made to make Appomattox County among the counties producing more than 25,000 cords of pine pulpwood each year.

SURVEY SHOWS THAT 1954 IS A CONSUMER'S YEAR

(Tampa, Fla., Times)

A mid-year survey of business by the Wall Street Journal reveals that 1954 is turning out to be a consumer's year.

Business, while by no means facing a recession, is not getting the large profit margins it has enjoyed in recent years.

Factory wages, at any average of $71.13 a week, are about 1 per cent below a year ago. While overtime is at an end, many family incomes are boosted by a daughter's employment as a secretary or stenographer. Incomes, thus, are holding up well.

Retail sales are barely affected by the estimated 3,305,000 unemployed and are reported only 2.4 per cent below boomtime levels. But it appears that competition is getting keener and the consumer is showered with offers of discounts, price cuts and easy credit terms.

***Almost every firm is looking for new ways of attracting customers and moving merchandise. Each of these efforts add up to greater consumer benefits.

No one can deny that it is time the customer got a break, but it does not mean that business will suffer. The ability of the American producer to attract and win customers is boundless. Competition is keen, but this merely means that America will continue to have the best in everything, made possible by businesses each striving to outdo the other in efficiency, quality and economy.

This is American free enterprise at work, and it is a beautiful sight.

6,000,000 WORTH OF BUTTER

(Blackstone Courier-Record)

The Foreign Operations Administration recently announced it had sold $6,000,000 worth of surplus butter to Great Britain. It was the biggest such sale ever made.

The huge government surplus of butter had been worrying government officials for some time and only this spring Russian feelers reached Washington on the question of a Soviet purchase of some ten or fifteen million pounds of butter. Although Soviet feelers were given consideration, the United States decided not to sell its surplus butter to the Communists.

The British, however, have agreed to pay $6,000,000 for 14,600,000 pounds of this country's surplus butter, and the bill will be paid in pounds sterling which, in turn will be used to purchase military and related goods in England needed by the U. S. military services. Such items are normally purchased abroad by the services.

It should be pointed out here that Great Britain is probably the best customer the United States has in the field of Surplus disposals. Congress some years ago decided to write into the Mutual Security Act provisions which would allow the Foreign Operations Administration to sell food surpluses to foreign nations. This was done in an effort to relieve surpluses piling up in the United States in a way which would not amount to dumping, and so that normal markets would be upset as little as possible.

In the last year, Britain has bought over $72,000,000 worth of surplus farm products (of the total $245,000,000 sold)—mostly prunes tobacco, lard, cottonseed oil, beef and canned fruit. It is expected that the end of meat rationing in England will soon bring a vigorous demand for U. S. beef from Great Britain.

The latest surplus foodstuffs sale is encouraging, in that it demonstrates surplus foodstuffs can be disposed of in large quantities. This should be encouraging to farmers favoring high support prices and to those who advocate a vigorous Washington policy of disposing of crop surpluses. There certainly seems to be two ways of combatting the surpuls problem, and disposing of such surpluses in international deals is the least painful method.

BOUNTY FROM RICHMOND

(From Bedford Democrat)

A booklet given over almost entirely to page after page of statistical tables in small type has just come to our desk. Its appearance does not commend it as the most exhilerating type of light summer reading. And yet in its figures is told a story that should interest every citizen of Virginia.

This booklet is titled "Report of the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth of Virginia on Comparative Cost of Local Governemnt." Its figures cover the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1953. Its big story is the auditor's finding that in 1944, 51.85 per cent of the total revenue of the counties of Virginia came from local sources, in 1954 only 43.92 per cent. The auditor concludes: "These figures emphasize the continuing dependence of the counties upon revenue provided by the state and federal governments for funds to finance their local operations."

The report shows that Bedford in 1953 ranked among the counties most dependent on Richmond. Its income from local sources was only 37.20 per cent, as compared with the all-state average of 43.92 from Richmond came 61.05 per cent of its funds, as against the state average of 47.98. Bedford's dependence on Washington was minor, only 1.75 per cent as against the state average of 8.10 per cent.

Now conclusions drawn from 1953 figures would not be a fair measure of Bedford County's ability and willingness to pay its own way. In that year the county drew a large part of its allotment under the Battle school construction fund and its recipts from the state for school purposes jumped from $359,000 in 1952 to $664,000 in 1953. Higher grants for teacher salaries was another factor. Hence the 1953 percentage of state aid was out of line.

The fact remains that in the last ten years the counties of Virginia have looked to Richmond for an evergrowing percentage of the funds they need to keep their schools going and pay the way of local government. We hear a lot these days about the danger that lurks in grants from the national government, the danger of federal dictation or control. All too little is heard of the dangers in this growing dependence of the counties on Richmond. Such threats to local government, local independence and the abilities of local communities to shoulder their own burdens is intensified by political conditions such as exist in this state. For a long generation one faction of one party has had a stranglehold on the fountainhead of the state's munificense. The system under which the counties draw half or more of their income from the state capital tends to strengtehn the domination of that faction in political matters. The results can be seen in almost any county courthouse in Virginia. It is inconsistent, to put it mildly, to wail about federal funds and federal control while a similar situation, even more deadly in its effects in local government, is developing in the relations between Richmond and the 98 county seats of Virginia.

TAKE IT EASY

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

The fears of Franco officials of "democratis contagion," arising from American bases and dollars which they welcomed, are not enough to arouse our sympathy, but at least Senor Jorge Vigon has a point. In alarmed prose, the brother of the Spanish chief of staff writes:

> It is revealing to see how some of our countrymen are prepared to Americanize themselves by giving up their lunch, with the pleasant chat that follows, in order to swallow in haste, in the midst of their work, sandwiches of doubtful content.

Many a good American will sympathize with this defense of a leisurely lunch and siesta (which is a midday rest period, not necessarily a nap). So let it be said directly that antagonism to the siesta is not a fundamental part of democratic culture, nor the sandwich an inalienable right. Our Declaration of Independence warns against absolutism, not against taking it easy.

Therefore we would hope that representatives of the Spanish dictatorship might worry more about the impact of some essentially democratic ideas, such as free speech or a free ballot, and take our hasty lunch the way it should be taken. With bicarbonate.

BOOST FOR THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE

(Roanoke Times)

Long before the Revolution Daniel Boone, Thomas Walker and other pioneers blazed a trail through Cumberland Gap, the remarkable mountain formation where the three states of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee join. For nearly a century streams of people followed the Wilderness road through Southwest Virginia and Cumberland Gap to settle the lush bluegrass regions and to push on to the Mississippi and beyond.

After a quarter of a century of effort and delay the proposal to establish a National Park in the Cumberland Gap area nears fruition. The National Park Service has made a survey and reported favorably. Of the 20,000 acres acquired for the park, 10,600 are in Kentucky, 7,400 in Virginia and 2,000 in Tennessee.

Some legal question in the nearby Kentucky city of Middleboro have been resolved, and the way is now open for the formal creation of the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.

The area includes the lofty Pinnacle, towering above the gap in the Cumberland Mountains. In the park will be the Cumberland Ford, Warrior's Path, a number of caves and remains of the old Wilderness Trail which will be carefully preserved. Park authorities also intend to preserve fortifications constructed by Confederate forces during the War Between the States to prevent the invasion of Virginia from the West.

Cumberland Gap Park claims a combination of attractions, rugged mountain scenery, as well as two centuries of historical significance. Within a short drive from the Great Smoky National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee, it should serve to bring the attractions of the "Mountain Empire" to an enormous number of people from all over the Eastern United States.

READING FOR GREAT MEN

From the Greensboro, N. C., News

It may be that educated men were better, or at least more thoroughly, educated a century or so ago, when "classical education" was in vogue, than they are now. There was a time when an educated man was supposed to be conversant with Homer, Plato, the Greek dramatists, Thudydides, Lucretius, Tacitus, Plutarch, Virgil Montaigne, Shakespeare, Montesquieu, Cervantes and Locke. It worked very well with Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison and in later times with Winston Churchill; indeed it made them what they were and was the secret of their greatness. Maybe we need more of it.

Advertisement

From where I sit ... *by* Joe Marsh

"Browser's" License

"Specs" Johnson, who thinks it's a real treat to spend an hour or so browsing in a bookshop found his idea of heaven up in Centerville last week.

"Just inside the door," Spec says, "there's a tray of bright blue buttons. If you want to look around without having someone suggest you buy the latest best-selling novel, or maybe a history of Africa, you pin a button on your coat lapel.

"You can poke around all you like. Then when you've found the book you want, take off the button, and someone's right there to take care of you."

From where I sit, everybody likes to make his own choice. It doesn't matter whether it's books, or preferences in clothing or makes of cars. And it's no surprise that folks have personal preferences in beverages, too. So if your neighbor orders a glass of beer while you're having coffee, remember he's entitled to his choice, too.

Joe Marsh

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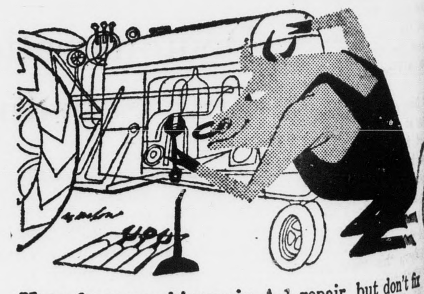
There's trouble and danger in unfilled holes and ditches, and in unprotected hay chutes, uncovered water tanks, cisterns, wells! Check your farm for hazardous openings into which people or animals might fall; remember, especially, children are curious about things they can crawl into.

Repair weak or broken steps; check handrails. Keep stairways clear of boxes, brooms, toys, etc. Be sure all steps are well lighted. Never over-wax steps.



Keep farm machinery in A-1 repair, but don't fix it while it's running! Don't "save time" by leaving off safety shields on power take-offs. Keep children away from machinery. Keep electric motors clean and free of trash accumulation. Keep home appliances and cords in good condition.

Always wear gloves when repairing rusty or barbed fences. Use only an approved electric fence controller. Keep electric cords in good condition; use only moisture-proof cords outside; heavy rubber cords for motors.

Make a safety inventory of farmyard and home. Keep tools picked up. Be sure that the pathway to your main electrical switch box is free of all obstructions. Inspect switches, insulation, outlets. Keep extra, proper-size fuses on hand.

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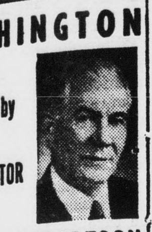
WASHINGTON as viewed by YOUR SENATOR A. WILLIS ROBERTSON



During the past week our Appropriations Committee has been conducting two sets of hearings at the same time—one on the foreign aid bill and one on a supplemental appropriation of approximately two billion dollars, about one-half of which is for the military establishment.

A tabulation by our staff of all types of foreign aid since fiscal '41 indicates total appropriations of ... hundred and fifteen billion dollars. At the present time, there is an unexpended balance in the foreign aid program of approximately ... billion dollars to which the President has asked us to add another three and a half billion dollars. The present type of foreign aid was authorized by the Act of 1949 and ... called the Marshall Plan. Since then it has had a variety of names ... all meaning substantially the same thing. Total net expenditures for all purposes, in that program have been $25,852,000,000. While the expenditure of those vast funds has undoubtedly helped to stem the tide of communism in Western Europe it did not stem it in Asia and even the most ardent supporter of the program must admit that the net results have been disappointing. Naturally, therefore, a major point of discussion both in the Foreign Relations Committee, in authorizing a continuation of the mutual aid program and in the Appropriations Committee, where a breakdown of the request was submitted, has been "What allies do we now have that are dependable and what military defense have we succeeded in creating?" That question cannot be answered until we know what the French Parliament is going to do about ratifying the European Defense Community.

Premier Mendes-France has promised to submit to the French Parliament before it adjourns next month a request for the ratification of EDC. Personally, he favors ratification but previously doubted if he could secure a majority in Parliament for his proposal. Of course his popularity in France has been increased by his ability to end the war in Indochina which had become very unpopular even though he ended it on terms that amounted to a communist victory.

The decision of France on EDC is one of vital importance to us. There can be no successful defense of Western Europe without the use of German troops, and there is no practical plan for the rearming of Germany without French consent. EDC was a French proposal aimed at controlling the military strength of a liberated Germany. Great Britain and the United States prepared and approved a treaty to liberate Western Germany after EDC has been approved by France and five other European powers. But the so-called peace treaty has not yet been approved by France because France has not yet approved EDC, although it has been approved by Germany, Holland, Belgium, and Luxemburg. If Frances votes to amend the treaty the Germanys would not again ratify. If it votes down the treaty the only way Germany could be rearmed would be through the joint action of Great Britain and the United States in granting national sovereignty to the areas of Western Germany which they now occupy. Under that sovereignty Germany could be accepted as a member of NATO. But action of that character does not dispose of the French troops in the area of Western Germany occupied by the French nor does it dispose of the issue of our subsequent use of major airfields in France at great expense and lines of communication across France to supply troops in Germany.

The principal reason that France has not approved EDC is that under it a super-Government is to be set up and those who join that super-Government will waive some elements of sovergnty. The communist party in the French Parliament which is the largest of all, is opposed to EDC because it wants no strong defense in Europe against the communists. Extreme Nationalists like General De Gaulle are opposed to EDC because of their pride and their hope that France will continue to be treated as a major world power.

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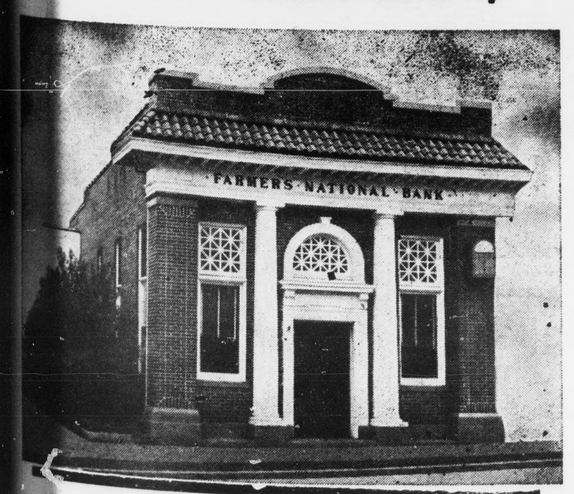

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Appomattox, Virginia

Decendants of William Rosser Held Reunion on July 24

"Bessarabia," the home of Mrs. Bessie Ferguson, near Appomattox, was the scene July 24th, of the gathering of the descendants of the late William Rosser. Mr. Rosser, a native of Fincastle, who had moved to Appomattox, was engaged in making firearms in Richmond for the Confederacy during the War Between the States. At the close of hostilities he returned to Appomattox. During the following years he had many and varied interests, including a mercantile business, operating several farms, and serving as United States Postmaster for Appomattox Court House.

A buffet dinner was served in the house and on the lawn. The home was decorated with varigated summer flowers. All members of the family and guests registered on a large scroll provided for the occasion. They wore white caps, with red decorations, on the front of which was inscribed, "Rosser Clan."

The surviving daughters of Mr. Rosser, Mrs. Clement A. Hancock of Huntington, West Va., and Mrs. Bessie Ferguson, of Roanoke and Appomattox, were crowned "Queens for the day."

The following descendants and out-of-town guests were present: Mr. and Mrs. Guy Littleton Furr, Miss Mary Catherine Furr, Guy Littleton Furr, Jr., of Roanoke Judge Catherine Clement Dellinger William Rosser Clement, Newport News; Mr. and Mrs. James Pitzer Gills, James Pitzer Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Theodore Gills, Bluefield, West Va.; Miss Mary Louise Gills, Richmond; Braxton LeGrand Hancock, Huntington, West Va. Mr. and Mrs. George Russell Gimbert, Miss Evelyn Gimbert, London Bridge; Lt. H. Clement Hancock Gimbert, of Fort Belvoir; Don F. Drake, of Edmond, Oklahoma; Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Winston White Clement Hancock White, St. Petersburg, Florida; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allen Carter, Charles Carter, Gladstone, Va.; Mrs. Jennie Johnson Appomattox; Mr. and Mrs. H. Harold Bendler, Virginia Beach; Mrs. W. Daniel Browning, Richmond Mrs. Harry P. Davis, Mrs. Mildred Alvis, Miss Patricia Alvis, Miss Kate O'Brien, Mrs. Leonard McFadden Randolph McFadden, Miss Opal Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Thelbert M. Trent, Miss Lina Trent, Mrs. William Benjamin Caldwell.

Phone 2811 with Personals.

Miss Hazel Hamlet Wed to Mr. William Green

The wedding of Miss Hazel Joyce Hamlet, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hughie H. Hamlet, of Phenix, and Lt. William Eugene Green, U. S. A., son of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Green, of LaFollette, Tennessee took place Friday evening, July 23rd, at 7:00 o'clock in Midway Baptist Church Phenix, Virginia.

The Rev. L. P. Brown, pastor of the church, performed the double ring ceremony before an altar banked with emerald foilage accented with white gladioli and interspersed with branching candelabra. Nuptial music was provided by Mrs. Sylvia Holt, pianist, and Miss June Grey Holt, of Brookneal.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a dress of white tulle and chantiilly patterned lace. The portrait neckline above the basque of lace was edged in flowers of the lace pattern. Small self covered buttons formed the back closing of the bodice and the long close fitting sleeves pointed over the hand. A wide band of tulle gathered on to the diaphaneous skirt of lace, extended the entire width of the circular cathedral train. Her finger tip veil of imported silk illusian was attached to a princess bonnet of tulle embroidered with miniature pearls She carried a bouquet of white gladioli florets outlined with lilies of the valley and centered with a white orchid.

Miss Ruth Elizabeth Phillips, of Evington, maid of honor, was in a waltz length dress of Rio Rose tulle. A crushed cummerband of taffeta draped into a voluminous bow at the waistline extended to the hem of the bouffant skirt. A brief bolera of matching tulle covered the shoulders of the strapless bodice. A headdress of matching tulle and gladioli florets, tulle mitts, and matching shoes completed her costume. She carried a bouquet of pink gladioli and blue delphinium.

Other attendants, Miss Marilyn Delores Walker, of Martinsville, and Mrs. D. B. Mason, Jr., of Phenix, both cousins of the bride, wore gowns and acecssories identical to that of the honor attendant. They carried bouquets of yellow gladioli and blue delphinium fashioned like that of the honor attendant.

Little Mary Louise Dillard, of Altavista, was flower girl and wore a white organdy costume. Carlton C. Walker, Jr., of Martinsville, cousin of the bride, was ring bearer. He wore a white linen suit and carried the rings on a white satin heart-shaped pillow.

Lloyd Vaughan, of Farmville, was Lt. Green's best man and ushers were Thomas Grizzard, of Boykins. Preston Hamlet, Hylton Hamlet, both of Phenix, and Neil Smith, of Lynchburg.

Mrs. C. T. Dillard, of Altavista, was mistress of ceremony.

The reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Hamlet was held after the ceremony in the social hall of the church. The bride's mother chose for the wedding and reception navy chiffon and Mrs. Green was also in navy. Both wore lavender hybrid orchids.

For their short wedding trip the bride chose a pink and white cord suit with which she wore white accessories. She added a white orchid at the soulder.

The bride is a graduate of Longwood College, Farmville, and has been a member of the Altavista High School faculty for the last three years. The bridegroom is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg. He was a member of the Huddleston High School faculty prior to entering the service. He is now stationed with the Eleventh Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Mrs. Green will be with her husband at Hopkinsville, Kentucky, during the month of August. She will return in September to a teaching position in Charlotte County.

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